



Council on Child  
Safety and  
Family Empowerment

**GOVERNOR DUCEY'S OFFICE OF YOUTH, FAITH AND FAMILY**  
**COUNCIL ON CHILD SAFETY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**May 18, 2018**  
**10:00 AM**

**1700 West Washington Street Suite 230**  
**Conference Room B**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85007**

*A general meeting of the African American Children and Families Subcommittee was convened on May 18, 2018,, at the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family, Suite 230, Conference Room B, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007. Notice having been duly given.*

Members Present (6)	
Roy Dawson, Chair	
George Khalaf	
Judy Krysik	
Linda Morris	
Julie O'Dell	
Teresa Toney	
Members Absent (4)	Staff/Guests Present (3)
Berisha Black	Terrilyn Miller
Leslie Reproggle	Melisha Bryant
Ben Robinson	Sue Micetic
Shelly Smith,	

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Roy Dawson, Chair, called the African American Children and Families Subcommittee meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with six members and three staff present and 4 members absent.

**2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Dawson, Chair, welcomed everyone again, and asked all members to introduce themselves.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dawson, Chair, requested a review of the April 20, 2018, meeting minutes. The minutes were passed with one revision with no dissenting votes.

**4. Meetings in Community Proposal**

Mr. Dawson stated that the core of this meeting was the proposal to obtain input from all sources in the African American community concerning their dealings with the child welfare system. Ms. Terrilyn Miller suggested that this subcommittee identify what it has the capacity to change without depending on political leadership and what impact that might have in the community. Mr. Dawson suggested that the subcommittee seek to address one thing that the community identifies through their input to the subcommittee.

## **5. Meetings in Community Discussion**

Dr. Judy Krysik opened the discussion suggesting that questions be formatted for community focus groups. Mr. George Khalaf noted the need for a common instrument which would support capacity building and noted that any other form of inquiry would be more costly. He also suggested that the subcommittee request that AZCAAR work with them to engage the community. Dr. Krysik suggested writing an introduction letter or email to describe the purpose of the focus groups and the process of engagement. Mr. Dawson identified the subject matter as input concerning issues related to how the African American community felt about the child welfare system, including court processes. He suggested starting with an introduction of committee members and the work the council supports at the next AZCAARS meeting on June 19, 2018. Ms. Linda Morris suggested the Zip Code Project as another option for community engagement through the Department of Education. Dr. Judy Krysik noted that Glendale Strong Families could be a contact. Mr. Dawson suggested Prevent Child Abuse Arizona and Ms. Morris suggested the South Phoenix Faith Network. Discussion continued around such issues as the need for a timeline, defining the desired outcome/s of the focus groups, and two tracks of inquiry for providers and clientele. The purpose of gaining this information from the community would be to prevent the top-down approach of producing a program that did not address community needs. Ms. Morris noted that seeing results was important to the community and that they should be advised that they would be given the report produced by the data gathered from the focus groups. She also noted that the community was not seeking to be dependent upon government help.

The question of helping families learn to navigate the system was further discussed. Ms. Julie O'Dell noted that because every situation is unique, it is hard to explain how to navigate because it never looks the same. She also pointed out that counties organize their systems differently and this adds to the difficulty. Dr. Krysik stated that DCS was an important part of the system but the subcommittee's focus as broader covering all systems involved. She noted that what the committee decides to do with the information will determine the result of the study. Ms. Teresa Toney suggested including policy recommendations. Ms. O'Dell suggested legislative recommendations. Ms. Morris reiterated bringing the information back to the leaders of the grassroots organizations so they can incorporate the input into what they are already doing to better serve their community. Ms. Toney addressed the need to measure impact.

Mr. Dawson restated major points of the discussion thus far:

1. Introduction of subcommittee and project at AZCAAR breakfast meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, from 9-10:30 at First Institutional Baptist Church, 1141 E. Jefferson St., Phoenix, 85034.
2. Further discussion and planning of focus groups.
3. Plan a report to the council and to those engaged in the focus groups.
4. Determine a format for measuring impact

It was decided that a small workgroup would meet or email to determine and organize the necessary information to be given at introduction meeting.

**6. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- a. August 17, 2018
- b. September 21, 2018

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. O'Dell gave a short review of the new guardianship law. Permanent guardians who want to adopt can now do so if the child is legally free for adoption. If they were not receiving a subsidy, they would qualify to receive it. If they were already receiving a subsidy, they would continue to do so. Adoption fees could be reimbursed. This will make it easier to provide permanency. It will be possible to go to the county attorney and get a free adoption. The law will go into effect on August 2, 2018. It will be a process to inform people of the new process.

**8. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Dawson, Chair, noted there was no public present.

**9. ADJOURN**

Mr. Dawson, Chair, requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. O'Dell made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Morris seconded the motion. Mr. Dawson called for adjournment at 11:18 AM.

Dated May 18, 2018  
Arizona Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment  
African American Children & Families Subcommittee  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Terrilyn Miller  
Director of Faith & Community Initiatives, GOYFF